

USED OIL FILTERS

Used oil filters, routinely disposed of in landfills, can be recycled into new products, saving energy, natural resources, and landfill space. Approximately 425 million oil filters from automobiles, motorcycles, freight carriers, farm equipment, and recreational vehicles are disposed of annually in the United States. These discarded filters contain nearly 25.5 million gallons of used motor oil and 233,750 tons of steel. Most of these filters (almost 80 percent) are disposed of in landfills consuming 76,500 cubic yards of landfill space and wasting valuable oil and steel that could be recovered through recycling.

Used oil filters contain three materials (oil, filter media and steel) that can be recycled or reused. Used oil can be re-refined into lower grades of lubricating oils or sent to fuel blending facilities as an alternative fuel. The spent filter media can be sent to a treatment facility that incinerates the material and uses the heat from the process to generate electricity. The steel scrap can be smelted to produce new steel products such as cans, cars, appliances and construction materials. By recycling all the oil filters sold annually in the United States, enough steel would be recovered to make 16 new stadiums the size of Atlanta's Turner Stadium. When used to make new steel, a ton of steel scrap conserves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal and 120 pounds of limestone and nearly 11 million Btu's of energy.

Discarding used oil filters in landfills poses a threat to the environment because the oil remaining in the filters can seep into the environment. It is estimated that nationwide, more than 100 million gallons of used oil are disposed of in old filters. After draining for 12 hours, an oil filter can still contain three to 16 ounces of oil. A single cup of used oil is enough to contaminate 62,000 gallons of drinking water. One quart can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water and one gallon can contaminate one million gallons of water - a year's supply of drinking water for 50 people!

To prepare filters for recycling please follow these three steps:

1. Invert filter onto its base end and puncture a hole in it's top.
2. Drain the filter (about 24 hours) over a spill-proof container with a lid.
3. Place the drained filter into a leak-proof container (coffee can with lid, sealable plastic bag or bucket) and take to a household hazardous waste collection facility (you may also bring the drained oil).

The location of the household hazardous waste collection facilities and the hours and days of operation are listed below:

Central Transfer and Recycling Center
11034 NE 117th Avenue; Vancouver
(360) 256-8482
Saturday & Sunday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

West Van Materials Recovery Center
6601 NW Old Lower River Road; Vancouver
(360) 737-1727
Friday & Saturday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Philip Services Corporation
625 S. 32nd; Washougal
(360) 835-8594
First Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Mobile collection events
Call Clark County Public Works
(360) 397-6118 ext. 4352 for collection information.

Clark County Solid Waste and the Washington State Department of Ecology sponsor the program to collect oil filters, as well as other household hazardous wastes: pesticides, paints, batteries, thinners, oil, antifreeze and household cleaners. There is no charge for **household** hazardous waste brought to the facilities. However, participants may only bring up to 25 gallons of waste per household and the waste must be in 5 gallons containers or smaller. For additional information, please contact Clark County Solid Waste at 397-6118 ext 4352.